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Issue No 145
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LOUNGE STAGE IS ALL SET

Tickets are still available for Canterbury's own boutique Lounge on the Farm festival.
The fifth festival, showcasing home-grown talent such as psychedelic Syd Arthur and internationally-renowned acts like Martha And The Vandellas, will run at Merton Farm from July 9 to 11.
There will also be comedy stars led by Phill Jupitus, Make Do & Mend inspired theatre, dress-up and play for children and locally-sourced food and drink to replenish flagging fans.

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

UNPOPULAR plans to build a huge reservoir in Broad Oak have been cast into doubt after being slammed as "wholly inappropriate" by a national conservation group.

A public inquiry was held into drinking water provider South East Water's water management plan earlier this month.

The document sets out plans for providing adequate supply for the next 25 years and includes the reservoir near Canterbury.

During the enquiry Natural England submitted a report which said: "In South East Water's own environmental assessment a reservoir at Broad Oak is ranked as having the most environmental risks of any option."

"In the light of such extensive damage to a nature conservation site of national importance, the selection of Broad Oak as a preferred option for a future reservoir in this part of South East Water's area is wholly inappropriate."

Natural England said a reservoir on the site would destroy 16 hectares of a site of special scientific interest and have a negative impact on the other 762.5 hectares.

Natural England said: "As a whole, the Blean Forest complex represents one of the largest tracts of largely continuous ancient woodland remaining in England."

"Almost the entire area of special scientific interest that would be destroyed by the Broad Oak reservoir preferred option is ancient woodland; an irreplaceable habitat of great conservation and cultural heritage importance."

The group said the reservoir would be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS **KENT ON SUNDAY** AND THE **SATURDAY EDITION** FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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How the canny customer can beat VAT rise

CONCERNS about the VAT hike in announced in the coalition Government's emergency Budget have been voiced by the MP for Canterbury and Whitstable.

Veteran Tory Julian Brazier is worried about the impact the decision could have on businesses and consumers in Canterbury.

He said: "As a major retail centre, there will be obvious consequences for Canterbury – but not nearly as serious as failing to get borrowing under control. Look at Greece, where the level of annual borrowing is roughly the same proportion of the economy as it is here.

"Nobody wants to see VAT go up – indeed nobody wants a tax rise of any kind. But given the parlous state of public sector finances, we had to take measures to get borrowing down. We are balancing it so almost four-fifths of the measures will come from cuts in public spending and just one fifth from taxes. It's regrettable, but necessary."

As well as increasing the cost of petrol, clothes, cars, white goods and services, the tax will add an annual average of £33 to each shopper's basket when it comes in on January 4, 2010, but for those relying on convenience foods the cost will be much higher. The good news is there are ways to beat the taxman. VAT law should split your supermarket goods into two categories: essential foods, which you pay zero tax on, and luxury foods that will be subject to the 20 per cent levy.

However, the difficulty the tax man has in splitting these items means that very often you can purchase a similar product for 20 per cent less. It's just a question of knowing which products to buy. For example if you buy nuts and dried fruit from the baking aisle you will probably not pay VAT. But buy them from the snacks section and you'll pay 20 per cent VAT on top of the retail price.

Buy a hot lunch from the supermarket and you'll incur the tax levy; but have a cold sandwich and you'll

■ BY JILL HURST



CHOICE: Not all foods attract VAT

get off tax free. Likewise, buy freshly baked bread rather than take-away hot food and you'll save 20 per cent. Jonny Steel, of website mysupermarket.co.uk, agrees there are odd differences between the types of foods that qualify for VAT, making it hard to predict where the increase will hit shoppers most.

He said: "A gingerbread man decorated with two chocolate eyes is exempt from VAT, but if it contains any more chocolate, standard-rate VAT is charged. Likewise, unshelled salted nuts are exempt, but shelled, salted nuts are not."

"Other foods that come under the zero-rated VAT banner, despite being convenience foods include Jaffa Cakes, milkshakes, chocolate spread and tortilla or corn chips."

With such anomalies it is possible for the savvy shopper to save a substantial part of their weekly shopping bill at the same time.

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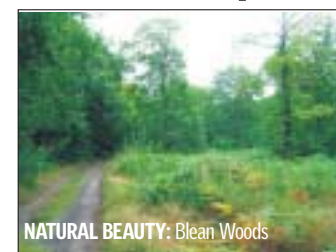
Hot takeaway food; crystallised ginger; chocolate-coated biscuits; cereal bars, raisins packaged for snacks; squashi; ready-made popcorn; Arctic Roll; sorbet; chocolate bars; nuts or fruits covered in chocolate or yogurt; flavourings for milkshake; crisps; shelled, roasted or salted nuts; ice cream and lollies; orange juice

VAT EXEMPT:

Freshly-baked food; sandwiches; ginger in syrup; chocolate chip biscuits; Jaffa Cakes; flapjacks; raisins packaged for baking; cream gateaux; mousse; chocolate spread; toffee apples; milkshake and flavoured milk drinks; microwave popcorn; frozen ready meals; tortilla or corn chips; roasted or salted nuts supplied in shells, pistachios; oranges

• Visit www.mySupermarket.co.uk

Cold water poured on reservoir plan



NATURAL BEAUTY: Blean Woods

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE particularly harmful for the endangered heath fritillary butterfly, dormice and bats. The idea has also been criticised by the Environment Agency which said a reservoir at Broad Oak was unnecessary.

David Howarth, strategic environmental planning manager at the agency, said: "We are not convinced the need has been adequately established. We don't think the demand forecast is robust enough."

"But even if you accept the forecast, which says there is a gap between the forecast and supply, we felt there were faults in the options appraisals process."

The agency said the company should instead do more to plug leaks, find more water from aquifers and, if reservoirs were considered, to build bigger reservoirs elsewhere.

A South East Water official said: "In previous water resource plans, and now our proposed final plan, we explained that after further efficiency and local small groundwater improvements, there will remain a shortfall in available water by 2026."

"Broad Oak would help support our entire Kent supply area, and as far as East Sussex, because we will be able to transfer water through the new interconnecting pipelines."

"For the past nine years the company has met its leakage target of 96 megalitres per day set by Ofwat."

NHS chief returns from secondment

ANN Sutton is returning to her role as chief executive of NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent from this month.

She was asked to take up the role of interim chief executive at NHS Surrey in March, while a permanent appointment was made.

David Meikle, director of finance and commissioning, took on the role of acting chief executive.

Chairman Colin Tomson said: "I would like to thank David for his excellent work during Ann's secondment. We are fortunate to have such a high calibre team which has ensured we have continued to operate a first-class service."

"Ann's temporary move was a mark of confidence in her and we look forward to welcoming her back. Her expertise and experience are invaluable."

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Warm weather boon for crooks

A SPATE of opportunist thefts has prompted a warning from police.

Cash and electrical equipment worth hundreds of pounds has been swiped by crooks who have got in through doors and windows left open in the hot weather, sometimes while the householders were at home.

Wallets, purses laptops and phones are popular targets for opportunist

criminals. Det Insp Nick Greenan said: "During hot weather it's tempting to leave doors and windows open, but this is an invitation to burglars who admit when caught that such oversights make it easy for them."

"When you leave a room make sure the window is secure. Modern windows often allow you to leave them open a little bit to allow air through

but so that they cannot be forced wider. Doors should be locked, even when you are in another part of the house and definitely when you are in the garden."

"Simple crime prevention measures can help make sure your summer is not spoiled by the greed of a few who see the hot weather as a welcome opportunity."

Recession-hit appeal now back on target

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

THE recession saw donations to the cathedral appeal drop by half, but now it's back on track, raising £1 million in just 10 weeks.

The appeal collected £1.4 million last financial year, compared with an average of £3 million for each previous year the campaign has been running.

Matthew Butler, chief executive of the fundraising campaign, said: "A lot has been happening but not much money has been coming in. The last financial year was undoubtedly a tough one."

"We are now certainly at about £10.5 million, and I know there is more coming that will take us over £10.7 million. It is very encouraging."

"We held a garden party at Lambeth Palace a couple of weeks ago and that went extremely well. We had one person who couldn't come but gave us £100,000, which was very nice."

The money has been going towards restoring the south side of the cathedral's corona, which is now complete, and work has started on the corona's north side.

The cathedral's library and archives have had their conservation work completed on time and within budget, and work on the dilapidated and leaky south west transept and the precincts' 17th Century gates will soon begin.

The appeal, now called "The Gift", also has a new board which will help take the fundraising campaign to wealthy investors globally.

The board includes investment fund manag-



RESTORATION APPEAL: The gift appeal has raised £1 million in just 10 weeks to get the repair works back on track

er Richard Oldfield, James Leigh-Pemberton, the CEO of global bank Credit Suisse and the chief finance officer of mining giant Rio Tinto.

Mr Butler said: "This is a very powerful group of people. They can help take the appeal to all sorts of wealthy individuals and trusts and foundations who can support us."

"We are delighted for all the support we are getting from people in Kent who continue to be very generous."

"We have got some good events coming up

through the course of this year and we are trying to have one or two more popular events in the cathedral."

This includes the irreverent folk band Jethro Tull playing their Christmas concert in the building on December 18.

"Things are picking up, but whether we can keep up the rate of £1 million every 10 weeks we are not sure, but the new year has already had a very good start and if we can do more we will be delighted."

Police halt rave in woods after residents' tip-off

RAVERS' plans for a party in Clowes Wood were scuppered by police following a tip-off.

On Saturday police broke up the rave which was being set up in the forest between Whitstable and Canterbury.

Officers found a dozen people in the woods at 3.30pm with six sets of large music speakers. The organisers were asked to leave and take their amplifiers with them.

CI Steve Barlow, Canterbury district police commander, said: "Following information officers were able to act quickly and stop the rave going ahead before anyone living nearby was disturbed."

"We would urge communities in rural areas to be vigilant and if they spot large groups of people congregating or they hear of raves being planned to call us."

Anyone with information about future events should call neighbourhood police on 01227 868 253 for Canterbury, 01227 744 793 for Herne Bay or 01227 868 028 for Whitstable.

If a rave is going on or is being set up call Kent Police on 01622 690690.

Teacher accused of assaulting boy

TEACHER Peter Stewart denied four counts of indecent assault on a 12-year-old-boy alleged to have been committed 15 years ago in Canterbury.

Stewart, 37, of Hadrians Road, Andover, appeared at Canterbury Magistrates Court.

He was bailed until August 26 when he will be committed to Canterbury Crown Court for trial.

Driver's car was full of beer cans

WHEN police stopped drunk driver Andrew Batten they found his Renault was full of bottles.

Batten, 20, of Fairfax Drive, Herne Bay, admitted being twice over the limit at Canterbury Magistrates Court.

Teresa Ruiz, prosecuting, said Batten was spotted driving fast along Gordon Road, Herne Bay and was stopped in Western Avenue.

She said: "Police opened the door and found empty beer cans and wine bottles on the seat."

Stuart Green, defending, said Batten had been drinking at a friend's house, slept and had a meal. He collected the bottles and cans because he didn't want to leave the house in a mess. He decided to drive after he was told it would take an hour to walk home.

Batten was banned from driving for 18 months, fined £200 and ordered to pay £85 costs plus £15 victim surcharge.

It's no to Capello

THE majority of readers who voted in an online poll at kent-news.co.uk will not have been happy with the FA's decision to keep Fabio Capello on as England manager.

Following the 4-1 World Cup defeat by Germany, 58 per cent of the 291 voters said Fabio Capello should be sacked by the FA.

Drunk stole friend's car to buy cigarettes, court told

DRUNKEN Jamie Tool stole his mate's car while he was swimming and smashed it into two parked vehicles and a wall.

Tool, 24, of Sydney Road, Whitstable, admitted aggravated vehicle theft, being three and a half times over the drink drive limit, and having no insurance or a licence.

Teresa Ruiz, prosecuting, at Canterbury Magistrates Court said police were called to a crash in Faversham Road, Seasalter, and found a red Ford Focus in the road.

A man in a striped T-shirt had been seen running away from the crash.

The car owner said he'd left his car keys on his clothes while he went for a swim. When he came out of the water, the keys and Tool were gone.

Police finally caught up with him at Preston Parade.

Mrs Ruiz said: "He said he couldn't remember the journey or the crash."

Richard Ashley, defending, said: "He had consumed a huge amount of alcohol - he said three bottles of spirits and eight cans of beer."

"He thought he'd drive down the road and get some cigarettes. This was alcohol-driven stupidity."

Mr Ashley said Tool had become an alcoholic in his mid teens. He recommended that his client attend an alcohol rehabilitation course, saying there was a likelihood of more offences because his client was 'drunk all the time'.

Chairman of the bench, Peter Gill, said: "You are very lucky that you didn't kill anyone."

Tool was given a 90-day prison sentence suspended for two years, a three-year driving ban, a 12-month supervision order and ordered to do £180 hours unpaid work. Hewas also ordered to pay £1,200 compensation plus £85 costs.

Two taken to hospital after crash

A THREE-car smash near Barham landed three people in hospital at 7pm on Sunday evening.

Emergency services were called to the crash at the junction of the A260 and the London-bound A2 slip road.

An Aylesham woman driving a Peugeot 307 was taken to the Queen

Elizabeth the Queen Mother Hospital in Margate while a Deal man driving a Peugeot 106 and his passenger were taken to the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

None of the victims were seriously injured and a London man driving a Skoda Felicia escaped unharmed.

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Food inspectors getting grip on hygiene backlog

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

NEW figures show Canterbury City Council's food hygiene inspection backlog is getting smaller – but 200 businesses still missed their examinations.

The council hired a new food inspector in August, 2009, when the number of cafés, restaurants and caterers missing out on routing hygiene inspections was at its height.

But with fewer staff now carrying out inspections compared with last year, when 40 per cent of inspections were being missed, and the number of food premises rising, it is unclear how long this positive trend will continue.

Escaped

A Freedom of Information Act request showed that in the 2009/10 financial year, 1,631 routine inspections were due, of which 1,424 were carried out. This means 12.7 per cent of restaurants and businesses escaped inspection.

But the problem was worse last year, when 15.3 per cent of businesses did not receive their scheduled inspection.

Since then, 115 new businesses needing inspection have opened. Although the trend is positive, in the 2009/10 financial year there were only 4.66 full-time equivalent food inspectors because of training time, sickness and redundancy, despite hiring an extra inspector.

Before August, 2009, the council had five full-time inspectors and the extra person was supposed to bring the total up to six.

At that time most councils in the area had 6.6 full-time equivalent food inspectors, and



CLEAN BREAK: Hygiene's a priority for food outlets

Canterbury has 40 per cent more food-orientated firms than the average Kent district.

The city council has said that, because of the financial situation, no new staff will be hired but this will be kept under review.

One of the restaurants which missed its inspection at the height of the problem in 2008 was the Masala Bay takeaway in High Street, Herne Bay. This was the first ever emergency closure of a takeaway because of cockroach infestation.

After a member of the public complained, the shop was found to be full of the insects and had to be shut down. It is now under new ownership.

Three other businesses have also had to be closed since then, but they had undergone their scheduled food inspections.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Benefit cheat caught out

FRAUDSTER Caroline Giles claimed benefits as a single mum while her partner was living with her, a court was told.

The 44-year-old claimed £18,039.54p in income support, council tax rebate and housing benefit over two years, even though bus driver Brian Baldwin was living with her.

Giles, 44, of Oxford Street, Whitstable, admitted two counts of benefit fraud at Canterbury Magistrates' Court.

Robert de Banzie, prosecuting, said Giles signed declarations in 2007 that she was a single parent living with her two sons.

She falsely claimed benefit for more than two years, yet Mr Baldwin was still living with her. When officers interviewed her, she claimed they had been apart since 2006.

Giles told magistrates: "I know I've done wrong." She was given a six-week sentence, suspended for two years, and ordered to do 200 hours' unpaid work.

Year ban for drink-driver

NIGEL Ford was seen swigging alcohol from a bottle in a car park in Wincheap before driving off. His Mondeo was stopped by police and he admitted he had been drinking.

Teresa Ruiz, prosecuting, told Canterbury magistrates: "He was going to pick his children up. Other arrangements were made to get them home and he was taken to the police station, where he failed a blood test."

Ford, 48, of Upper Harbledown, said he had given up drinking after turning to the bottle when his dad developed Alzheimer's disease.

He was banned from driving for a year, fined £250 and ordered to pay £85 costs plus £15 victim surcharge.

Open invitation to thieves

VEHICLES left unsecured in hot weather are an easy target for thieves, police have warned.

Officers have been alarmed by the rise in thefts this summer. During June there were reports of 19 break-ins to cars and vans in Canterbury, Whitstable and Herne Bay.

Sat-nav systems, clothing, cash, bank cards, a mobile phone and even a disability badge were all taken.

Seven of the owners admitted their vehicle had been left unsecured though doors, windows and boots being unlocked.



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Erin II brought safely to shore



WHITSTABLE RNLI rescued a fishing boat with three anglers on board.

The lifeboat launched at 2.15pm last Wednesday, to help 17ft boat Erin II which had a flat battery near the East Last Buoy,

two miles off Reculver.

The lifeboat towed the craft to Herne Bay and put ashore at the launching ramp in the harbour, where it was met by a team from Herne Bay Coastguard.



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Metal worker thief sold scrap to cover spiralling debts

SHEET metal worker Jason Peck-Walker stole scrap from his employers and sold it to raise cash, a court was told.

Peck-Walker, 41, was seen coming out of Actionair's Whitstable factory with another man and loading sheet metal into the boot of his Rover.

Workers nearby called police because they thought the building was being burgled. Officers spoke to the pair and they said they had been working late.

Police carried on searching for non-existent burglars and a dog handler spotted the loading operation. He gave other officers the car licence number.

Both men were wearing gloves to ensure no fingerprints were left.

The Rover was stopped and stainless steel sheets were found in the boot, along with receipts from scrap dealers.

'Red-handed'

Peck-Walker, of Trevale Road, Rochester, had never been in trouble with the law before, said Keiran Brand, defending, who admitted his client had been caught "red-handed".

He had been selling scrap legitimately but succumbed to temptation.

Mr Brand said: "He had spiralling debts that were out of control. Bailiffs were knocking at the door. As a result of this theft he lost his job."

"He has never so much as set foot in a court before. He feels a great deal of shame appearing here."

Peck-Walker was given a three-year conditional discharge and ordered to pay £500 compensation and £85 costs.

The other man is yet to appear.

Try Angle tales inspire confidence in our youth

■ BY CHIEF INSP STEVE BARLOW

AS I WRITE, all appears well in my world. The sun is shining and summer has arrived, helping dispel the gloom that set in after England's World Cup defeat.

I love football, as evidenced by the ridiculous amount I spend each season going to watch the team I have followed since the age of eight.

In fact, Mrs Barlow claims that in my priorities, football comes just after our children and just before her.

It should, of course, be easy for me to deny this, but fate dictated that England v Germany was played on the date of our wedding anniversary. No contest. Sadly, it wasn't much of a contest on the pitch either.

As a police officer it doesn't take long for things to be put in perspective and by early Monday morning I was back dealing with the serious issues of life in the district.

We do tend to spend a disproportionate amount of time dealing with the darker side of life and it can be all too easy to overlook the fact that the vast majority of people are decent, hard-working citizens who just want the best for themselves and their families.

However, it's not just police officers that might be susceptible to thinking the worst of people.

BARLOW'S BEAT



It seems to me that all too often our young people are given a bad press and not the credit they often deserve. I was given a reminder of this recently when I attended the Canterbury District Try Angle Awards.

These awards were inaugurated 11 years ago by Kent Youth Service to recognise the efforts and achievements of young people in our community. Awards were presented for ten categories including community service, personal development, bravery and achievement in music, art and sport.

I spent more than two hours listening to quite remarkable tales of service, dedication, determination, fortitude, courage, self-discipline and friendship. I couldn't help but be moved by the selfless efforts of so many of these young people who, often against steep odds, do so much to make life better for others.

So if you are sometimes inclined to despair over our future generations, don't – there are some great young people out there.

Until next time, enjoy the summer, take care and be safe.



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yourlocalinterview

QUESTION & ANSWER

TIM OXLEY



Q Tell us a little bit about your job?

A I've been with Swale council as part of the environmental response team since June 2006. My role as animal control officer includes the things normally associated with dog wardens, including collecting stray dogs and dealing with dog fouling problems.

I'm also involved in patrolling, as well as enforcement for dog related problems including noise nuisance and dog on dog attacks, licensing for some animal establishments and pet shops, and many animal welfare issues.

Q What's the best bit about your job?

A One of the joys of the role is that it's very diverse. No two days are ever the same.

Q And the most challenging?

A Most of the problems I deal with are caused by people, and not the dogs – dog fouling, dogs barking and dog behaviour.

For example, we all know that most dogs are not very choosy where they do their business. Even my Jack Russell has been known to act disgracefully in public, but as responsible dog owners we always have bags available.

I find it amazing that in 2010, we still have a problem with dog fouling. People know that not clearing up after their dog is offensive, a

health hazard and irresponsible. But still we have dog walkers who either are so engrossed in chatting to their friends they don't see what Fido is doing, simply don't care, or sometimes even deliberately go out under cover of darkness so no one sees their disgusting behaviour.

Dogs bark, it's a fact of life, but happy, contented dogs don't bark for hours on end, and certainly should not be allowed to cause annoyance to neighbours. If you own a dog, everything about the animal, its noise, behaviour and its social interaction, is your responsibility, period.

In my view, if you are unable to train your dog correctly, to stop it from being a nuisance to neighbours, and to comply with all legislation regarding your pet, then don't get a dog.

Q Dog fouling is clearly a big issue. What is the council doing about it?

A It's important to realise we are talking about a small minority of people – the majority are brilliant. This year we are increasing the amount of patrolling of known hotspots. Our team includes street wardens and environmental officers, who are working closely with Kent Police.

We have a zero-tolerance policy, so if anyone is witnessed not clearing up after their dog we will take the appropriate action. We are also running proactive campaigns throughout the year to promote responsible dog ownership.

If every dog owner did just their own little bit, most of these problems wouldn't exist.

Q You also deal with animal welfare, that must be difficult at times?

A One of the most difficult aspects is when we come across serious animal welfare issues. As with all jobs, you have to remain detached and professional, but it can be difficult.

Q How did you come to do the job and did you need special training?

A I was in the right place at the right time. I was looking for a change of direction and, the role appealed to me as a great challenge. Four years later I'm still here and still loving it.

Most of the job is based on common sense, although we do have formal training in dog handling, animal welfare, legislation, procedures, and health & safety.

Q You seem to really enjoy your job?

A It really is the best job in the world. I'm part of a busy team who really do work as a team. We all have the concept of a 'cleaner greener Swale' running through us like a stick of Leysdown Rock.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A My spare time is controlled by the latest list of jobs my wife has for me, but my number one hobby is photography and I enjoy simply spending time with my family. I also love boot fairs.

Q&A

Tim Oxley is the animal control officer at Swale council. He talks to **Jill Hurst** about getting tough on the minority of dog walkers who are spoiling the countryside for the rest of us.



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Garden of the future will put food on table

STUDENTS at Hadlow College are looking to the future with their entry for the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show.

Designed and constructed by former and current students, Food 4 Thought is an innovative courtyard garden that takes food direct to the table. Visitors to the show, from Tuesday, July 6, to Sunday July 11, will get a glimpse of how the Garden of England might evolve.

The garden was designed by Hadlow College graduate Mandy Buckland, who now runs the award-winning garden and landscape design company, Greencube.

"The brief was to include apples, but we took it a step further and looked to climate change," she said. "What will we be growing in years to come? Will it be lemons? Farmers are adapting for change already."

Along with traditional Kentish crops such as apples and strawberries, the contemporary garden includes produce more commonly associated with the Mediterranean climate, such as lemons and peaches.

■ BY JANE CONNOLLY

"There is water running down the walls and it symbolises the capture of water," said Ms Buckland. "It highlights the fact that water is a commodity and it should be captured."

Lecturer and garden manager Brian Hawtin is also a Hadlow graduate and he explained more about the garden's vision.

He said: "The garden shows what we have grown in the past in Kent, what we grow now and what we might grow in the future."

One striking feature is a cantilevered table protruding from the wall, with ribbons of strawberries flowing down into the table itself.

"We are talking about field to fork meals," Mr Hawtin said. "You could be sitting eating your meal and when it comes to dessert time, there are the strawberries. This is all Kent produce so it can be grown in your garden."

All the plants have been grown at the college and the initial construction has been carried out by Mr Hawtin, along with seven students in year two of the Garden Design course – Neil



LOOKING TO FUTURE: Mandy Buckland, left with her team, and below, the concept of the Food for Thought garden

Brookson, James Craig, Adele Ford, Alick Nee, Susan Palmer, Susan Willmott and Claudia Vergari.

To create the garden's flooring, the students cut quartz paddlestones which fit into moveable trays, creating a portable structure which can be fitted together at Hampton Court Palace. The garden also features innovative 'food walls' planted with chillies, peppers and herbs, to make efficient use of a small space.

Speaking in May, when the build was in full swing, Mr Hawtin said: "What we are doing is assembling all the bits and pieces and adding things, to get as much built here as possible before going to Hampton Court Palace."

"We want the garden to be in a perfect state when the judges look at it. We need to get it all planted and plants can turn to the sun. That's the sort of detail the judges are looking for."

Exhibitors are given two weeks to put the garden together at the show site, so the team



should be putting the finishing touches to Food 4 Thought this weekend.

But once the show is over, Food 4 Thought will not be thrown on the compost heap. The garden will return to the college as something for students to work on.

"Next year's project will be to redesign this garden," Mr Hawtin said.



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Academies revolution on cards as 60 schools register interest

MASSIVE upheaval in Kent's education system is on the cards after nearly 40 per cent of secondary schools expressed an interest in becoming academies.

Of the 157 secondaries in the county – including those run by the county council as well as Medway, Bromley and Bexley – more than 60 are considering breaking away from local authority control so they can manage their own budgets, curriculum and staffing levels.

Registered

Primary schools are also being invited to become academies, and 53 of the 681 in Kent – or about eight per cent – have registered their interest with the Department for Education (DfE). The coalition Government had given headteachers until June 30 to put their names down, despite widespread concern the academies programme will leave those schools remaining under the remit of councils with less funding and a reduced ability to attract the best teachers.

Kent's could see the first of the new breed of academies as early as September. Gravesham-based independent education adviser Peter Read is one of many who oppose the scheme. He said: "Most schools are looking at the short-term gain and the money for themselves with-

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

out regard to the overall effect on schools in the county. The money has to come from somewhere and it can only come from other educational establishments who will be all the poorer for it. The best schools will also be able to offer higher salaries and will take the best teachers away from the schools that need them most.

"To do this without consultation and without the full facts is a disgrace, and I think the whole concept is divisive. And what happens if there's a Labour government next time? The rules will change again and the whole thing will end in tears."

Lord Hill, parliamentary undersecretary of state for schools, said: "Every school expressing an interest will have a named contact in the Department, who can answer their questions and guide them through the process. At the same time, we expect schools to keep their governors, staff and parents updated on progress."

"This is a genuinely permissive policy, there is no pressure for any school to convert by September, and they can do so at any time, when they feel they are ready. We want schools to decide what's best for them, not politicians or bureaucrats."

The DfE has published a list of 1,567 schools nationwide that have registered an interest in

becoming academies. The list includes 52 Kent schools rated as 'outstanding' by Ofsted – the most in the country – as well as 66 that are not. Hartsdown Technology College in Margate is one of the "not outstanding" schools featured, but principal Andrew Somers said expressing an interest was not a declaration of intent.

"We're just looking at what's on offer really," he said. "There's not enough detail yet for us to decide whether we're going to do it or not."

"The number of schools in Kent that end up as academies could end up significantly less than the number that has registered an interest because we don't know whether it will be worth it or not in the long term."

Challenge

"One of the downsides of becoming an academy is that you end up on your own and have to access all the support and pay for it yourself. But we're a National Challenge school and need all the help we can get."

"We've built up a really good relationship with Kent County Council and would have to think very carefully before jumping ship."

KCC leader Cllr Paul Carter has urged headteachers to exercise "extreme caution" before agreeing to become academies because not enough information on the scheme had been released.

His sentiments were echoed by the National Grammar Schools Association, which warned

that under current proposals governors would not need to hold a parental ballot before turning their schools into comprehensives in the future.

Kent is already home to some 15 academies, all of which were developed to transform the fortunes of one or more schools that had been suffering from "extremely challenging circumstances".

However, the new academies will be different because even the best-performing schools in the county have been invited to sign up.

And while the existing academies are funded by a mix of public and corporate sponsorship, it is not yet clear where the money for the new breed will come from.

Paul Mortimer, principal of the Isle of Sheppey Academy which opened last September, warned that such a transformation will not be to every headteacher's tastes.

He said: "Academies are supposed to be innovative, so you can't apply to be one and then expect to be told what to do."

"Being the principal of an academy gives you a lot of freedom to make decisions in a different manner, but you have to be a strong enough person to live with them and to lead such an establishment."

"I'm sure a lot of the heads will be strong enough, but it won't be for everyone."

• For a full list of schools that have expressed an interest in becoming academies, see www.education.gov.uk/academies/schools-registering-interest.



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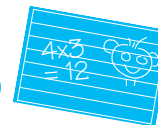
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BREAK TIME

Students' digs top for holiday guests

THE University of Kent has won Group Travel Organiser's 'Best University Accommodation for Groups' for the third consecutive year.

It was presented to the university team by travel-writer and broadcaster Simon Calder at in London on Friday, June 11.

The award marks the success of the University of Kent as visitor accommodation during the holidays, when the students are away and rooms are let out to tourist groups and conference guests.

Kent beat off York, Warwick, Imperial College London, Durham, Cardiff and Portsmouth to take the prize.



Charity gives talk on work for war heroes

ARMY charity Help for Heroes visited St Anselm's Catholic School (pictured) on Friday to help promote their work.

Three sergeants give an assembly to Year 10 pupils. The students started the assembly with poems, then the soldiers showed a moving presentation of the work that Help for Heroes does.

They followed this with a talk, ending with a question and answer session.

Forensic skills go under the microscope in competition

■ BY JAMES BENJAMIN

ASPIRING forensic scientists put their skills to the test in a special science competition put on by St Anselm's Catholic School last week.

The secondary school in Old Dover Road welcomed Year 5 and 6 pupils identified as 'gifted and talented' from a host of local primary schools in the district to unravel the mystery behind a 'murder' using forensic science tests.

It meant getting hands on with some of the methods deployed by crime-solvers to see how science can make a real difference and help catch criminals, as well as providing the youngsters with a fun experience to help them engage with the subject.

Teams from local schools Bridge and Patricxbourne, St Augustine's RC, St Marys' RC, St Simon's RC, St Theresa's RC, St Thomas' RC and Wincheap all competed to solve the crime.

After reading about the murder in a specially prepared newspaper article, students examined the crime scene and decided on the scientific tests they needed to solve the mystery.

In the morning session, students made indicators to test the pH of soil found at the scene, used flame tests to identify poisoned sugar, examined fibres with microscopes and took fingerprints in order to link suspects to the victim.

In the afternoon session the students worked in the school's Discovery Centre to make a presentation detailing the results of



CASE SOLVED: Pupils turned crime busters as they put their scientific skills to the test to solve a 'murder' using forensic tests

their enquiries and identifying the culprit and any accomplices. Students then presented their findings to an audience of teachers and parents.

The winning team were from St Simon's RC School in Ashford and were awarded a shield for their efforts. All participants were presented with special certificates.

Acting head teacher Mike Walters said: "As a science specialist college, St Anselm's Catholic School is keen to share our expertise and enthusiasm for science with the community."

"Our excellent science team put together a thoroughly enjoyable day for all. I'm sure that St Simon's will look forward to defending their title next year."

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Page 45





PROTEST: Joe Jones, vice chairman of the Gypsy Council, says travellers are sick of being pushed around

Gypsy leader's fury over call for clampdown

A GYPSY leader has reacted angrily to town hall leaders' calls for a government clampdown on unlawful developments.

Last week a letter signed by all 13 of Kent's district and borough heads, including Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter, was sent to the Government, calling for tougher penalties for people who build without planning permission.

The document makes a particular point about caravans and mobile homes, stating that current policy "weighs against what is acceptable and explainable" to the public.

However, Joe Jones – director of the Canterbury Gypsy Support Group and vice chairman of the international Gypsy Council – says local authorities are to blame for not providing adequate land to settle on.

Framework

"At the end of the day we need provision," he said. "And if we're not going to get it from them then we're going to get it ourselves."

"All we want is somewhere we can call home. Okay, we can't stop everywhere, but asking for more laws is ridiculous."

"There's no point dogmatising and vilifying us for their failures. It's getting to the point where it's time for us to protest against the councils because we can't keep taking this on the chin."

"We're sick of being pushed from pillar to post. We're not animals, we're human beings."

Later this year the Government will publish its first national planning framework, which KCC leaders hope will tackle the issue of developments being built without plan-

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

ning permission. They are calling for the Con-Lib coalition to introduce a new offence that would result in deliberate offenders being forced to take down unlawful buildings, or fined according to the seriousness of the case.

Tonbridge and Malling leader Cllr Mark Worrall said: "Unlawful development can scar the countryside and is the bane of many villagers' lives."

"This simple piece of legislation would send a clear message that there is 'zero tolerance' for buildings put up without permission, and would give councils clearer and less encumbered powers to enforce the wishes of local people."

"Such a move would be particularly helpful in dealing with unauthorised caravans and mobile homes."

The letter signed by the council leaders was addressed to Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark, who is also the new minister for planning policy at Communities and Local Government.

Mr Clark said: "The public want to see fair play – everyone being treated equally and even-handedly in the planning process."

"The new Government will tackle the real concerns about the current rules and guidance for planning decisions in relation to travellers' sites."

"We are working on proposals to strengthen the powers councils have to enforce against breaches of planning control and to tackle the abuse of retrospective planning permission."

Now Play Away Floella becomes baroness

CHILDREN'S TV presenter Floella Benjamin has taken her seat in the House of Lords as a Lib Dem peer.

Her official title is Baroness Benjamin of Beckenham in Kent but she will be known as Baroness or Lady Benjamin.

The 60-year-old TV favourite, best known for

shows like Play Away, promised to spend "much energy on the well being of children and young people".

She has starred in the Doctor Who spin-off series The Sarah Jane Adventures, works with Action for Children and Barnardo's and is a cultural ambassador for the 2012 Summer Olympic Games.



Pylon plans 'will scar landscape'

WINDFARMS and new sources of electricity in remote areas are generally viewed as good news for the environment, but they need cables to connect them to the National Grid.

And this week conservationists have greeted with dismay the news that a new chain of electricity pylons look set to blight Kent.

The National Grid wants to increase the network across the UK because there is a shortage of options to deliver power, but pressure group Protect Kent said there is an urgent need to move to electric cars, and to develop regional 'smart' electricity grids that can cope with renewable energy generation.

It said that from Romney Marsh to the North Downs near Gravesend, ranks of pylons are an industrial scar on Kent's landscape.

Protect Kent chairman, Richard Knox-Johnston said: "Given the choice most people would prefer underground cables."

National Grid says pylons cost £1.6m a mile, whereas underground cabling costs £20m, and that needs to be added to customers' bills.

However, Protect Kent said schemes for underground lines in Europe have shown that not only is the investment less, but that some of this outlay can be recouped as underground cables are more reliable.

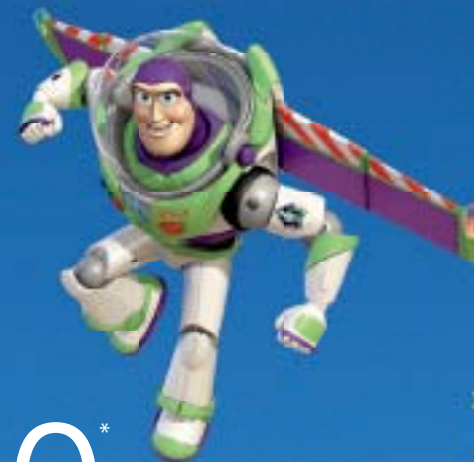
The RSPB in Kent is also concerned. It said: "The most likely conservation issue for birds is impact if they are placed in a busy route for them. The construction of pylons would be subject to the usual planning process and any nature conservation impacts would be considered as part of that."

National Grid said this is the biggest expansion of electrical infrastructure in half a century and is needed to meet a surge in demand and to link up with wind farms and nuclear stations.



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YOUR LETTERS

Recession is good for local council

Good to see that Canterbury City Council is at last set to consider properly how it spends our money.

I have been repeatedly outraged by the waste that goes on and the way we residents are just seen as bottomless pits of cash from which they can draw.

I for one welcome the economic crisis. Once we are through it councils will be meaner and more efficient and may at last learn the lessons they have ignored from the private sector for years.

Sorry some people are going to lose their jobs and sorry that pension easy street you thought you'd secured with a nice council job will not go on until you retire.

The council has an £877,000 'surplus' from last year. Excellent. Let's see double that at the end of this year and say a 10 per cent reduction in staff salaries. My advice: start at the top with our laughably overpaid officers.

Name and address withheld on request

Give us more FA cash to nurture England stars



There's no solution to football problems

What better way to make our England team better than increasing grass roots investment? Your story claimed last week.

As we get over the debacle of another failed campaign by England, we are all once again examining the game and trying to find solutions so that we can perform better.

Well it's not going to happen. We simply are not good enough and never will be. We had the chance to get our house in order and make the best of our young talent but we didn't do it. Now every nation has a well disciplined squad capable of giving any team a close game – as the World Cup has shown.

In this country, with the exception of a few big clubs, the only youngsters who find themselves in with a chance are the extremely talented and many of them will be disappointed when they fail to land a contract.

Football has become the dominant sport in Britain and too many youngsters want to be footballers. Parents pushing their kids to achieve is part of the problem.

And then when they do make it, our English premiership players are incapable of performing.

The problem is that without the security of a Premiership team

yourblogger

Simon Robinson is left hot under the collar – not by the recent great weather, but by his bosses...



THIS weather we are having is intolerable. It's too hot, too humid and too distracting; constantly filling my mind with thoughts of shorts, sandals, seaside, beer, beer gardens and barbeques and other non-work, outdoor daydreams.

All of which makes my arduous daily task of making phone calls, sifting through emails, writing news stories and managing reporters somewhat of an arduous task.

The powers-that-be have made efforts to make my working life a little more bearable during this mini heatwave of ours.

I've kindly been provided with a small desktop fan, which is trained on my brow from mid morning to early evening, and our office's patio doors are inevitably opened at some point throughout the day to further aid the flow of fresh air into the newsroom.

But try as I might, when the sun starts shining and the temperature passes 25 degrees I can't seem to shake off a burning yet entirely irrational sense of injustice at being made to work on such a beautiful day in such stuffy circumstances.

This isn't your typical British 'it's too hot, it's too cold' moan at the weather, though.

No, my issue is with The Management.

It is inarguably too hot to work in these conditions. We can't change the weather, but there are other vari-

ables we can alter. For instance, why don't we roll out a formal summer office wear range for men? Suits are out, shorts and flip-flops are in.

A free ice-cream coupon would also do wonders to improve weather-affected workers' morale.

Transport chiefs could also replace stuffy, overcrowded buses with those open-deck tourist guide models.

Or how about we just accept that productivity is bound to go down slightly on the rare occasions when it's hotter in this country than in Bermuda.

When your boss asks you for those reports/spreadsheets you said you'd have finished by noon, an acceptable response should be: "Look Sir, it's hotter than the sun in here. I'll get them to you by tomorrow."

All of these flawless suggestions would improve our daily working lives immeasurably.

And there are equivalents for the winter cold snap.

How about free hot water bottles? Mugs of hot chocolate? How about some grit on the roads? (On second thought, perhaps that last one's asking a little too much.)

We Brits aren't used to extreme temperatures. We are used to rain and darkness. It's what we're cut out for. If we want the sun or the snow we go on holiday.

That's the way it's always been and it's the way it should always remain.

So unless The Management can find a way to replace the unbearable summer sun and the ice-cold winter frost from Monday to Friday I suggest they take the above pointers on board.

Office shorts and flip flops are the way forward.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Canterbury blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourcanterbury.co.uk.

built around them, these stars just get frustrated and fade during the game, then blame their coach.

I don't know the answer to making us play better but I do think we need to lower our expectations at a national level and, as always, prepare to be bitterly disappointed by our countrymen.

Joe Hounslow, Herne Bay by email

I can't SEEDA how area will improve

Can I say how disappointed I am to hear that the coalition government has abolished SEEDA, the government agency that encouraged inward investment into our area and, in fact, was behind several major capital projects.

Where do they expect private investment to get this area moving again to come from? Without the expertise and involvement of SEEDA I fail to see how the county can look forward to a better future when so many will find their finances squeezed by the rise in VAT, the cutting back of benefits, the freezing of child benefit that will, in fact, mean a cut in inflation rises and mothers of young children will be forced to look for work in an area of high-unemployment.

Who will look after their children when child care is so hard to come by and the government proposes to allow nurseries to charge 'top-up fees'?

Public sector workers face a

wages freeze. Public sector pensioners will find their pension linked to a lower price index than previously.

Young people's training opportunities will be abolished so we face more unemployed lacking the skills required to enable them to get into jobs with long-term prospects.

Job Centres faced with closure forcing the unemployed to travel further to sign on and seek work.

Magistrates Courts closing so anyone who is facing a trial or giving evidence will have to wait longer to see justice done.

Kent councils are threatening many jobs cuts so our public sector workers will find themselves cast aside and their jobs handed to volunteers or done away with totally.

"Tough but fair?"

Jennifer Matterface, by email

Heads should roll over council pay off

I was outraged to read of the £365,000 pay off to Kent County Council's director of environment who left after just a year. He worked in Kent and lived in Yorkshire at weekends. How could that ever work?

KCC members are hiding behind employment laws for an excuse of paying this extortionate amount of taxpayers' money to an individual for one year's service which was terminated mutually.

The fact of the matter is that the contract of employment was drawn

up by KCC the employer so if it was a matter of a contractual agreement, as the council claims, it is gross incompetence by the members and senior officers and therefore some heads should roll.

In fact all the contracts of senior officers should be examined.

S Wilkinson, by email

Not taxpayer's choice to pay compensation

Adam Wilkinson made a choice to move nearer to his home and leave his job, he knew how far it was back to Yorkshire when he took the job, he had no right to a compensation pay off or whatever they call this ridiculous and unjust payout of taxpayers' money. A nice £365,000 pay off. That is obscene.

It would have been a different matter if it was the choice of the council to terminate his position but it was his choice and we should not bear the brunt.

How dare they spend yet more taxpayers' money, it is no wonder the country is in the state it is.

If this is the type of decision made by our leader of KKC perhaps we should be looking for a new one.

C Russell, by email

Can you spare time to make contact?

For many, the World Cup is an

opportunity to get together with friends and family, sharing the highs and lows of the competition.

At this time, spare a thought for older people, many of whom see their TV as their only friend. One in 10 say they are always lonely. This may be because they have no family or they may have lost a much-loved wife or husband.

Mobility problems may mean they struggle to get outdoors, leading to little human contact for weeks on end. This can lead to loneliness, isolation and despair. But it doesn't have to be that way.

As an Organising Volunteer for Independent Age, the UK-wide charity which provides lifelong friendship, practical help and financial support to older people on very low incomes, your skills, ideas and enthusiasm could help brighten the lives of older people. You'll help us recruit and support our volunteer visitors, who visit the people we support in their homes, and provide vital human contact.

If you think you have what it takes to help recruit, support and motivate other volunteers and have input on fundraising ideas in your area, then we would love to hear from you.

You will have the full support of your local Independent Age Area Manager and a friendly team, who will be on hand to help and advise you every step of the way.

If you think you would be suited to becoming an Organising Volunteer and have about one day a fortnight to spare for Independent Age, contact Amanda Jupp, Area Manager for South East England on 01403 741 042 or email Amanda.Jupp@independentage.org.uk.

Amanda Jupp, Independent Age

Trying to stop great rail fare robbery

Kent Green Party notes that the Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, is proposing to remove the current system which links rail fares to inflation.

We already have the highest rail fares in the world. Proposed rail fare increases of six per cent for January 2011, could be increased to 10 per cent or more if the Government removes controls on rail fares.

We have seen how substantial fares for new high-speed rail services have resulted in low take up by Kent rail travellers.

If commuters despair of the ticket prices and take to the roads, then the traffic congestion, noise and air pollution in many Kent communities will obviously get worse.

We need an integrated approach to transport. Rail fares should be cut, and suggestions of delays to the delivery of new carriages should be abandoned.

Supporting increased rail use is a clear priority if the Government means what it says about reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

There is always an alternative to misdirected cuts in public spending and justifiable increased spending on the railways is a clear example.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

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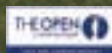
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DAY & NIGHT

Free theatre auditions

YOUNG people are invited to audition for the free Dover Youth Theatre workshop, From Film and Footlights.

West End musical director Pete Faint joins the workshop which runs from August 14 to 19. Auditions for ages 10 to 26 will take place at the Salem Baptist Church in Dover from 4.30pm on Friday (July 9). For details call 01304 202544 or email doveryouththeatre@hotmail.com.

Street festival coming

MUSIC, dance and much more will be on offer at the Ashford Street Festival on Sunday (July 11).

Hosted by Ashford Go4Palay in High Street, the festival features play-themed activities, an Italian market and skateboarding and dance workshops for teenagers, face painting and much more.

The traditional carnival is also being incorporated into the event.

Join Canterbury choir

AUDITIONS are being held for Canterbury Choral Society's Youth Choir on Saturday (July 10).

Boys and girls aged from seven to 14 can audition at St Edmund's School between 2pm and 4pm where they will be given a voice test.

Applicants can apply and pick their own audition time online at www.canterburychoral.co.uk/youth.

Play time in Broadstairs

GET over the World Cup blues with a double bill of entertainment from Millers Amateur Dramatic Society.

The group presents three short plays from Jean McConnell's Deckchair series and Darlings, You Were Wonderful by Derek Lomas. The show is at the Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs, July 10 and 11. Book on 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Born to barn dance

KICK up your heels at Equator's ceilidh barn dance with the Catsfield Steamers on Friday (July 9).

The dance will be held at Norton Knatchbull School in Ashford at 8pm and tickets cost £9/£7/£4. A fish and chip dinner is also available for £6/£2 and there is a vegetarian alternative.

To book call 01233 629165 or visit www.equatorfestival.com.

Pick 'n' paint a pot

ADULTS can try their hand at pottery painting at a venue in Cliftonville.

Pick 'n' Paint a Pot in Northdown Road is offering a workshop from 7pm to 9.30pm on Friday (July 9). Admission costs £13 and booking is recommended. To find out more call the pottery on 01843 297778 or visit the website at www.picknpaintapot.co.uk.

Drury does the classics

PAY tribute to musical legends at the Granville Theatre in Ramsgate on Saturday night (July 10).

Neil Diamond, Sinatra and Friends features two separate performances by Bob Drury, as he sings classic songs from iconic performers.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £10. To book call the box office on 01843 591750.



Picture VISIT KENT

Outstanding choral music will fill Canterbury Cathedral during concert

EXPERIENCE two outstanding pieces of music in a beautiful setting with Whitstable Choral Society's next concert.

The society is joined by five soloists as they perform Mozart's Requiem and Bach's Magnificat. The audience can look forward to an evening of rousing choral music with a group of remarkable soloists.

Soprano Bethany Kallan Remfry has graced the stage of prestigious London venues such as the Barbican, the Royal Albert Hall, the Houses of Parliament and St Martin-in-the-Fields. For her Wigmore Hall debut, she sang the world premiere of A Matter of Darkness by Alastair Putt. She has played some enviable roles, such as Dorabella in Mozart's Cosi fan tutte and Mercedes in Bizet's Carmen and Dido from Dido and Aeneas.

Helen Bailey is also a soprano who performs both as a soloist and a member of several ensembles, with an impressive list of credits which include The Clemency of Titus, Orfeo and Eurydice, Le nozze di Figaro, Susannah, The Rake's Progress and Carmen.

Hailing from Northern Ireland, contralto Lynda-Jane Workman sand with the Ulster Youth Choir in Proms

WHITSTABLE CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday, July 10

Canterbury Cathedral



at the Park and joined their Ireland and France tour. Her a cappella group Dieci, of which she is a founder member, recently reached the grand final of the BBC Radio 3 Choir of the Year competition and last year they launched their debut CD, A Good Night.

With a repertoire that ranges from the 17th century to the present day, tenor Julian Forbes has been praised for the 'rare depth and richness of tone' found in his voice. A German speaker, he has a particular passion for the Baroque and is in high demand as an Evangelist in Bach's Passions.

Before he became a baritone singer, Laurence Meikle trained as an actor in Australia. But his career took a distinct turn and he has appeared as guest principal artist with Opera Australia, Victorian Opera and Melbourne Opera in a variety of popular productions. He is now studying at the Royal Academy of Music and has performed throughout the UK and Europe, including a Royal Command performance at Australia House in London.

Originally written for the Christmas Vespers in 1723, Bach's Magnificat was initially in E-

flat and included various seasonal texts. Years later, Bach removed the festive interpolations and transposed the piece into D, to make it suitable for performance all year round.

A grand masterpiece, Magnificat requires five soloists and a five-part choir. At the time of its writing, the orchestra – three trumpets, two flutes, two oboes, strings and continuo – was an unusually large one.

When Mozart died in December 1791, only the opening movement had been completely finished. Shortly after receiving the commission from Franz von Walsegg, who wanted to commemorate his late wife, Mozart fell ill and began to talk about his own death, even suggesting that he had been poisoned and was composing the Requiem for himself.

After his death, his widow Constanze was keen to collect the full payment on the work, so another composer, Franz Xaver Süssmayr was brought in to complete it. Despite this controversy, the Requiem is still one of Mozart's best-loved works.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £15/£12 or £5 for the transept, where there is a limited view. Tickets are available on the door and in advance from Harbour Books in Harbour Street, Whitstable, on 01227 264011; Terry Johnson on 01227 750950; by emailing tickets@whitstablechoral.org.uk and online at www.whitstablechoral.org.uk.



TALENT: Left to right, Soprano Bethany Kallan Remfry; Helen Bailey and Lynda-Jane Workman



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Picture MARK MITCHELL



LOUNGE ON THE FARM

Friday, July 9, to Sunday, July 11, Merton Farm, Canterbury



GREAT music and comedy line up next to outstanding theatre at Lounge on the Farm Festival this weekend.

Alongside the seven music stages and the Playhouse, which hosts a bill of stand-up headlined by Howard Marks and Phill Jupitus' Improv All-Stars, there will be a variety of performing arts on offer. Performing Arts Network Kent, or PANeK, has joined forces with the Playhouse to present a showcase of theatre and performance.

On Sunday afternoon, festival-goers can relax and enjoy a programme of music, theatre, come-

dy, dance and poetry with 10 exciting acts. Enjoy Accidental Collective's Present Tents, which takes participants into a far-away world, or the punchy, witty poetry of Dan Simpson.

Other attractions include the Tiny Travelling Tightwire Show, Galloping Cuckoos, Ivivi, Little Bulb Theatre's Operation Greenfield, Shanty Fiasco's Tortoise, Wide Eyed Theatre and Jacqui Johnston's Crystal Ball (pictured).

Tickets are £40 for an adult day ticket and £20 for children. Details at www.loungeonthe-farm.co.uk.



QUEXPO

Saturday, July 10, and Sunday, July 11, Quex Park, Birchington

ENJOY a weekend of family fun in the beautiful grounds of Quex House when Quexpo Country Fair returns.

There will be plenty of entertainment on offer this weekend, with a busy programme that offers everything from thrilling motorcycle stunts to a family dog show. Vintage vehicle enthusiasts can admire the display of steam engines, tractors and military vehicles along with classic cars and motorcycles, while at the other end of the scale, visitors can hitch a ride on the miniature train.

One of Quexpo's highlights is

the Amazing Wall of Death motorcycle stunt show, in which daring riders entertain the crowds.

There will also be a funfair, a children's entertainer, cheerleaders, dance gymnasts, the Inter Thanet Junior Football Tournament and stalls. Many Hoots Owl Sanctuary will bring their beautiful birds of prey and on Saturday night, Blues Brothers and Elvis Presley tribute acts will provide live music.

Gates open at 10am and tickets cost £7/£5 for adults and £1 for children over five. Admission is free after 6pm on Saturday.

BROGDALE CHERRY FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 10, and Sunday, July 11, Brogdale Farm, Faversham

LIFE is sweet at Brogdale Farm this weekend as the attraction celebrates the humble cherry.

With more than 350 varieties of cherry growing at the farm, which is home to the National Fruit Collections, the expert guides are well-placed to tell visitors all about the fascinating history of the popular fruit. The cherry has been grown in the UK since AD46 and the farm has some interesting varieties in its collection, such as Early Rivers, which was raised from seed by Sawbridgeworth nurseryman, Thomas Rivers, in 1872.

This weekend's Cherry Festival offers visitors the chance to hear all about cherries and get advice from the experts on fruit identification and maintaining fruit trees. There will also be live cookery demonstrations and more than 50 varieties of cherry to taste and buy.

The festival also features craft stalls and activities for children, while seasonal fruits can be enjoyed in homemade dishes at the cafe. Visitors can also experience tractor trailer rides around the orchards and ride on the Faversham Mini Railway.

For more information call 01795 536250 or visit the website at www.brogdalecollections.co.uk.



DR PHIL'S RUDE HEALTH SHOW

Saturday, July 10, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



MEET the doctor who thinks he has the cure for everything when Dr Phil Hammond visits Canterbury.

With his new show, Dr Phil's Rude Health Show, he explores the health cost of pleasure seeking and tries to work out how the health system can cope with all our vices. Using his distinctive blend of humour, rudeness and irreverence, he gives audiences a consultation like no other.

Questions that will be examined include why people stick things the places they do, what to do if someone dies during sex and how you can enjoy your pleasures without putting a strain on the NHS.

His frank, funny and subversive take on the world of medicine has been a real antidote for awkwardness as he travels the country, dispensing his wisdom while generating big laughs.

The show, which is suitable for over-16s, starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £15/£13. Book online at www.thegulbenkian.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075. NHS workers can see the show for £12 but the discount is not available online. Bring proof of ID when collecting tickets.



MARTIN CROONES' CHARITY DATES



Various Dates, outside Macari's, Herne Bay

SINGER Martin Croones will be entertaining in the name of charity this summer.

He will be performing big band swing classics outside Macari's, at the Bandstand, from 2pm to 4pm this Friday, to raise money for Cancer Research and the Strode Park Foundation. Croones will return for more performances on July 19 and 30 and August 2, 6, 16, 20 and 27, weather permitting.

In 2007 the former salesman decided to take a year out to focus on his dream of becoming an entertainer. With the support of his family, he began singing in care and retirement homes and eventually began to get gigs at social clubs and pubs.

Once the year had gone by, he had learned enough to commit another year to the project and has been going strong ever since. He now sings in golf clubs, hotels, restaurants and private parties, with a lot of work coming from recommendations.

Anyone who would like to find out more about Martin Croones can call him on 01227 283445 or 07740 046459, email thecrooner@talktalk.net go online to www.freewebs.com/thecrooner.





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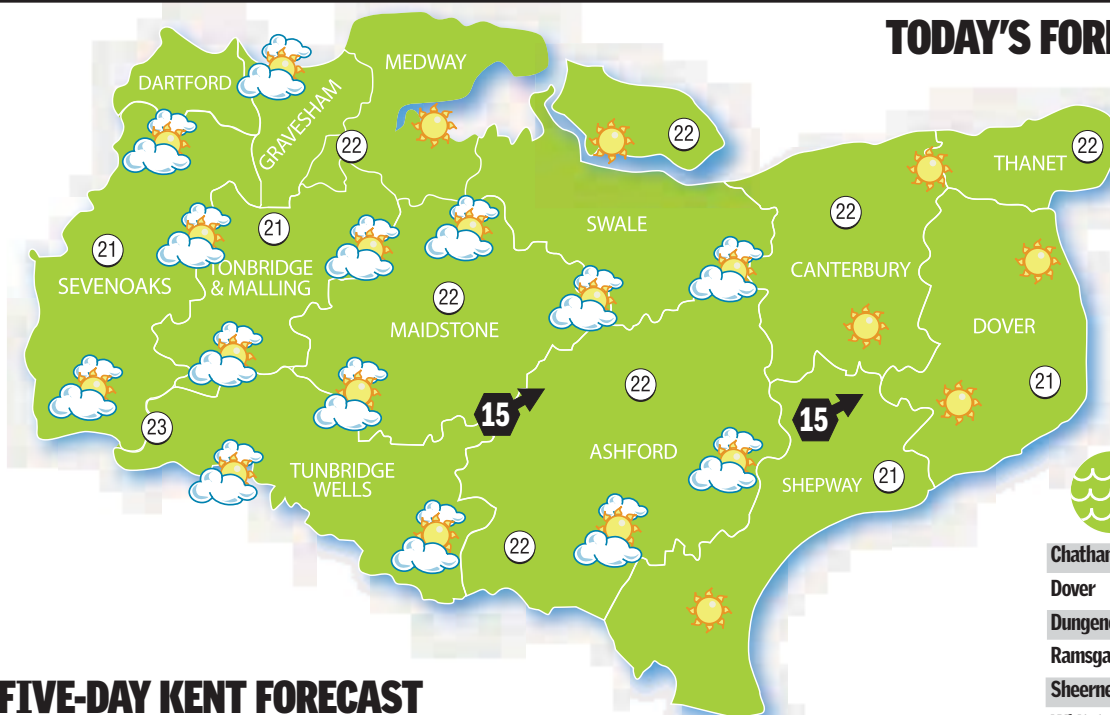
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Athens	32°C	New York	34°C
Barcelona	27°C	Paris	23°C
Beijing	39°C	Rome	29°C
Bombay	31°C	Sydney	13°C
Cape Town	18°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	19°C	Tokyo	29°C
Gibraltar	26°C	Vancouver	16°C
Hong Kong	35°C	Warsaw	26°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	11°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	12:21pm 5.6m	Sunday	1:12pm 5.8m
Dover	Saturday	10:33am 6.1m	Sunday	11:23am 6.4m
Dungeness	Saturday	10:41am 6.8m	Sunday	11:28am 7.2m
Ramsgate	Saturday	11:03am 4.6m	Sunday	11:53am 4.9m
Sheerness	Saturday	12:10pm 5.4m	Sunday	1:02pm 5.6m
Whitstable	Saturday	12:09pm 4.9m	Sunday	1:01pm 5.1m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon											Whitstable					Saturday	12:09pm 4.9m					Sunday	10:1pm 5.1m				
Ashford	21°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	25°C	Dover	20°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	21°C	Gravesend	23°C	24°C	24°C	25°C	26°C	Sevenoaks	21°C	21°C	22°C	24°C	24°C		SUNRISE	4.46am	SUNSET	9.14pm				
Canterbury	20°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	24°C	Faversham	21°C	22°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	Maidstone	23°C	23°C	24°C	25°C	25°C	Sittingbourne	21°C	22°C	22°C	23°C	24°C									
Chatham	21°C	22°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	Folkestone	20°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	21°C	Ramsgate	20°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	24°C	Tonbridge	22°C	22°C	23°C	25°C	25°C		MOONRISE	12.41am	MOONSET	5.06pm				
Dartford	23°C	24°C	24°C	25°C	26°C	Gillingham	21°C	22°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	Rochester	21°C	22°C	22°C	23°C	24°C	Tun Wells	22°C	22°C	23°C	25°C	25°C									


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WIN! Tickets to Rock Around The Clock

SOAP star Roxanne Pallett is to star in the American jukebox musical *Rock Around The Clock* at The Orchard from Monday 19 to Wednesday, July 21.

The show shake, rattle and rolls all the way back to the fantastic 1950s to the time of Teddy Boys, quiffs, Brylcreem, poodle skirts and blue suede shoes. It features a non-stop hit parade of rock and roll classics, including Great Balls of Fire, Jail House Rock, Blueberry Hill, Shake Rattle and Roll, Good Golly Miss Molly, Johnny B. Goode and many more, made famous by Buddy Holly, Bill Haley and His Comets, Chuck Berry, Fats Domino, Elvis Presley, The Platters and Jerry Lee Lewis.

Roxanne Pallett turned down a pop record deal when she won the part of Jo Stiles in *Emmerdale* that launched her as one of the nation's most loved soap stars.

With nominations for Best Actress, Sexiest

Female and Best Storyline for her agonising role of femme-fatale-turned-battered-wife, she proved to be more than just a pin-up.

Roxanne showcased her vocal talent on ITV's *Soapstar Superstar* and was the winner of *Celebrity Stars In Their Eyes*, singing as Gloria Estefan. She recently starred on ITV1's *Dancing on Ice*, then joined Torvill and Dean on their 25th anniversary *Bolero*



Tour. Roxanne has just completed her first Hollywood film, *Lake Placid 3*.

KOS Media Publishing has seven pairs of tickets to giveaway to see *Rock Around The Clock*.

To enter, answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Rock Around The Clock Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is July 10, 2010.

Question: Which *Emmerdale* actress is starring in *Rock Around The Clock*?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy of the T&Cs call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Rock Around The Clock tickets are £18.50 on Monday and £21.50 on Tuesday and Wednesday performances. To book please call the Ticket Office on 01322 220000 or visit www.orchardtheatre.co.uk.



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Frank Capra meets Walt Disney to inspire Shrek's final chapter

■ BY DAMON SMITH

THE fourth and final instalment of the computer-animated series puts a fairy-tale spin on It's A Wonderful Life, but Shrek Forever After lacks the heartfelt emotion of Frank Capra's 1946 classic.

The adventures of the jolly green ogre have been on a steady decline since the wildly imaginative 2001 original film, so it is to director Mike Mitchell's credit that this picture is arguably the best of the sequels.

Still, his film relies heavily on the love we have invested in the characters and their fates, and revisits many familiar faces from earlier chapters, including Pinocchio, Gingerbread Man and the Three Little Pigs.

Moreover, Mitchell steals shamelessly from Disney's Beauty And The Beast for his finale.

If you are going to borrow, it may as well be from the best.

Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) is suffering mid-life angst with mewling kids and his beautiful and pungent wife, Fiona (Cameron Diaz). Villagers are no longer scared of him and the ogre begins to wonder if life holds any more surprises.

"Shrek, you have three beautiful children, a wife who loves you, friends who adore you. Why is it that you're the only person who can't see that?" implores Fiona sadly.

In his hour of desperation, Shrek meets the conniving Rumpelstiltskin (Walt Dohrn), who offers a tantalising deal: he will gift Shrek one whole day as a scary ogre, just like before, if the father agrees to sign away one day of his childhood.

Shrek agrees to the Faustian pact, blind to Rumpelstiltskin's devious plan: to erase the day that Shrek was born and thereby alter the future.

Suddenly, Shrek finds himself in an alternate universe where Fiona is the leader of an underground movement of ogres, good friend Donkey (Eddie Murphy) no longer recognises



MID-LIFE ANGST: Shrek finds himself tempted by Rumpelstiltskin, and right, Puss in Boots has let himself go a little

him and legendary assassin Puss In Boots (Antonio Banderas) has piled on the pounds to become a lazy house cat.

Indeed, he no longer answers to his heroic monicker. "That is a name I have outgrown," he purrs.

"That's not the only thing you've outgrown," quips Shrek, staring at the feline's bulging belly.

In order to win back Fiona's love, Shrek must join forces with Donkey and Puss to break the pact before the sands in Rumpelstiltskin's oversized hourglass run out.

Shrek Forever After brings the long-running saga to a lively close, reminding each of the characters about the love and friendship

which bind them together.

Dohrn's pint-sized, snivelling villain is a colourful addition to the cast and he brings some much-needed vim to proceedings.

Murphy is subdued – not that he has a great deal of screen time for his usual scene-stealing antics.

The 3D version exploits the eye-popping format during the chase sequences, but Mitchell's film loses nothing in 2D and children won't have the added distraction of the oversized plastic spectacles.

SHREK FOREVER AFTER 
Certificate PG



MOST HATED? Piers Morgan brings you the lowdown on exotic destinations



YOUR TV REVIEW

PIERS MORGAN ON ... ITV1, 8pm, Tuesday
THE REAL DAD'S ARMY: More4, 7pm, Wednesday

■ BY TOM BETTS

PIERS Morgan is probably one of the most hated men in Britain.

That's not a nice thing to write, but he does seem to be terribly disliked, although I've never quite figured out why.

Perhaps he's a little pompous, but then again so is Simon Cowell and he seems to be the nation's sweet-heart these days and is just as influential as anyone in the country.

Piers Morgan on Fire, or Piers Morgan on the Rack might be preferable programme titles for many, but when he's not playing the plummy-voiced brayer on Britain's Got Talent, Morgan is not actually as obnoxious as you might think.

Still, ITV's decision to give the man a regular show, taking a look at whatever he seems to fancy is an interesting one.

Never one to shy away from an

awkward question, he travels far and wide to see what makes a place tick.

In short, he's trying to do a Clive James by getting under the skin of those he visits a little, hoping to expose something new for us viewers.

This week the man himself is looking at Las Vegas and Dubai, two places which share many similarities but also many differences.

WORLD War II has been very much in the news of late, with the 70th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuations especially noteworthy.

But what would have happened if the Nazis had crossed the channel as many at the time feared and expected? Would Britain have crumbled with a desperate lack of real soldiers

to defend our island?

Probably, is the answer to that, but the greengrocers, bank clerks and butchers of Britain were ready to meet them head-on, even if that meant pitting teenagers on bicycles against Panzer tanks.

For anyone who likes Dad's Army, this is essential viewing, and as many of those who were actually involved are still alive to tell the tale, we're treated to some excellent first-hand accounts.

It may be true that the Home Guard, which they became known as, would have been crushed, but could well have put up more of a fight than has been parodied.

Taking in the daft, the brave, and the downright silly, The Real Dad's Army looks at the weaponry, training and undoubted spirit that was displayed on these shores.

MOTORS NEWS



Auris drives straight into first 'green' award

TOYOTA'S new petrol-electric Auris Hybrid has just launched and scooped its first award – WhatGreenCar Car of the Year 2010.

The low emission/road tax exempt British-built Auris Hybrid – capable of averaging more than 70mpg – beat 10 other green car finalists and www.whatgreencar.com editor Dr Ben Lane, said the judging panel not only liked the car's superior drive and state-of-the-art driver control, but its 'normal' looks, in contrast to Toyota's bigger and more futuristic Prius.



Suzuki's Grand Vitara loses its 'chunky' looks

SUZUKI has cleaned-up its three and five-door Grand Vitara 4x4.

It retains its genuine off-road ability with high and low gear ratios but, no doubt mindful of the threat from more cleanly styled crossovers like the Nissan Qashqai, the Japanese marque has toned down the Vitara's 'funky chunky' lines, notably by removal of the tailgate mounted spare wheel, which gives way to a tyre repair sealant and pump.

Suzuki is also retaining a zero per cent finance deal until the end of September.



Renault is putting the Wind up crop top rivals

LOOKING like a Lotus Elise, but very much cheaper, Renault has revitalised the junior convertible sector of the market with the newly-arrived Wind Roadster.

It features an electrically-operated hardtop, which opens in just 12 seconds and does not affect boot space, unlike obvious rivals like the Peugeot 207CC and Vauxhall Tigra. The new coupé-roadster is built on the same platform as the Clio II Renaultsport hot hatch and well suited to two lively petrol engines – a 100bhp 1.2 and 133bhp 1.6 VVT Wind.



STANDOUT: Honda used the catchline 'not all 4x4s are the same' when they launched the new CR-V, but despite a revamp and improved emissions it still costs more than £29,000

'Whispering diesel' proof not all 4x4s are the same

ROAD TEST HONDA CR-V

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

lacks the manual selection option expected on new generation auto 'boxes.

This is a shame because the CR-V chassis is well-tuned to press on driving; some may find the ride quality firm, but it gives this relatively big and high-riding car great tenacity and very little body roll on the bends.

Interior fittings are upmarket and comfort levels excellent too, with good lateral support on the front seats, plus adjustable armrests and there is plenty of stowage, including a separate dashboard compartment with USB link for your iPod/iPhone or MP3 player.

Rear passengers are well catered for, with lots of legroom and a completely flat floor.

The 60/40 split/folding rear seats can also be adjusted fore and aft and raked back for greater comfort on long journeys and adjustment of child seats.

However, ultimate boot space is hampered by the rear being pinched for height and width and roof lining encroachment at the sides.

Our EX flagship test car also costs more than £29,000 with that pricey auto 'box, but it did groan beneath the weight of add-ons, so just look beyond the CR-V pricing – not all 4x4s are the same.



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Finished in Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 30,000 miles. £8,295*

Skoda Octavia 2.0 FSI Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Highland Green Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 31,500 miles. £7,995*

Skoda Roomster 1.4 16V 2 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Metallic Flamenco Red, Manual, 11,214 miles £7,995*

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Ambiente (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2007

Brilliant Silver Metallic 22,473 miles Automatic Petrol £7,495*

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,995*

Skoda Octavia 1.9 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £6,995*

Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 8,058 miles. £6,795*

Skoda Octavia 1.8 T Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Admiral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 12,403 miles. £4,995*

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Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equippe 4-Door Saloon

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Renault Scenic 1.9dCi 130 FAP Privilege 5-Dr Hatchback

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Black Magic Metallic 40,055 miles Manual Petrol £6,295*

Vauxhall Vectra 1.8 16v Breeze 5-Door Hatchback

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Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 Desire 5-Door MPV

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Bright Red 39,350 miles Manual Petrol £3,995*

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Renault Clio 1.2 Expression 5-Dr Hatchback

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*Correct at time of going to press.

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Be one of first to see the new Juke. Preview 9th July

Introducing the all new Nissan Juke, our first compact crossover to hit the streets.

No bigger than a conventional hatchback, Juke is an energetic fusion of the sportiness and agility of a hatchback with the strength and practicality of an SUV.

From the waist up, Juke's dune buggy shape has fun written all over it. But below the belt it's raw SUV, bristling with muscle, grip and a solid stance.

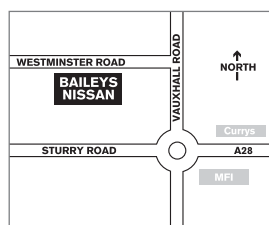
Jump inside to find an innovative driver-focused cockpit with a centre console design straight out of the dynamic world of motorcycling.

1.6 and 1.5dCi variants deliver a performance to match, with the option of the unique 1.6 DiG-T engine with direct-injection technology and turbocharger to really get your pulse pumping.

Juke will be available from September. However, as part of a pre-launch tour, Juke is coming to our showroom for one night only and we're inviting you to be one of the first to see it in the flesh.

With entertainment and great giveaways it promises to be an unforgettable event, so save the date below. What's more, we're taking pre-orders now with prices from £12,795 – £19,995*. Come on, Juke dares you.

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PROPERTY NEWS

'Tax changes could assist first-timers'

THE Government should make the creation of more affordable housing for first-time buyers and low-income families a top priority, according to a group that has analysed market trends.

It is the view of lobby group PricedOut.org.co.uk, which claims that millions of people on social-housing waiting-lists and first-time buyers looking to get on the property ladder are desperate for help.

Following radical changes to the planning system and public-sector funding cuts, the number of social homes built this year could slump by 65 per cent, according to research by the National Housing Federation.

But PricedOut.org.uk spokeswoman Katy John believes there are other ways that money could be saved without reducing the number of homes that are built for those who need them.

She said: "One way in which the Government could raise more funds for house-building is to remove the tax breaks currently enjoyed by buy-to-let investors.

"The estimated £1 billion saved every year by doing so could be used to build more affordable homes."

The plans also have the backing of groups who are working with people on low incomes looking to get on the housing ladder.

Google putting your dream home on map

USERS of UK Google Maps can now search for listings from estate agents and property websites directly from the maps.

Available properties are indicated by a small circle that provides a link to a particular agent's website.

The new facility also means that potential home buyers and renters can enter a location and see the available listings from participating agents by selecting 'Properties' from the 'More' menu.

A search can then be refined by price and type of property.

Countrywide, Zoopla, PropertyLive, Ezylet, SmartNewHomes, Vebra, Property Pal, Spicer Haart and Zoomf are reported to already be on board, and listings can be upload free of charge, presenting something of a challenge to property portals such as Rightmove and Primelocation.



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Life can be tough in the overcrowded South East

Federation demands more social housing

■ BY NICK AMES

SOUTH-EAST England has been named as one of the worst-affected areas of the UK when it comes to overcrowding.

A lack of new homes being built is the main reason behind the problem, claim National Housing Federation insiders who have been collating figures.

An estimated 80,000 households in the region are overcrowded, with that figure set to rise to 90,000 by 2013.

The National Housing Federation, which represents England's housing associations, is predicting a 20 per cent rise across the country in the number of families living in overcrowded housing by 2013.

The federation is warning that millions of people are now at risk of being trapped in sub-standard housing for a generation.

The slump in house-building is being blamed for fuelling the situation, with the figure of 123,000 new homes built in England and Wales in 2009-10 the lowest in 87 years.

Waiting

Additional research has shown that insufficient homes have been built in the South East since 2002, with the region missing its target for new homes by 15 per cent during 2008/9, the latest year for which the figures are available.

With more than 203,000 South East households on housing waiting-lists, the mortgage drought has exacerbated the problem.

Many young families are being forced to stay at home with their parents while they save for a deposit, or are simply abandoning hope of being able to afford their own place in the current economic climate.

Warren Finney, South East regional manager for the federation, warned that living in overcrowded conditions could have a major impact on families.

He said: "Overcrowding is closely linked to poor health, low educational attainment and family breakdowns. It can also contribute to increased levels of homelessness and put enormous pressure on public services, as families are housed in expensive and often unsuitable temporary accommodation."

In the forthcoming spending review, the National Housing Federation is calling on the Government to ensure that 50,000 social rented and affordable homes can be delivered every year in England.



NEGATIVE IMPACT: Overcrowding means families are often housed in expensive and unsuitable accommodation

Time to buy, if you have a deposit

NOW is the time to buy a house for those who want to get into the property market, but a sizeable deposit is still recommended.

A study by MyMortgageDirect claims rates on mortgages are now beginning to look favourable when compared with the escalation of UK rental values.

Mortgage-lender Santander claimed earlier that first-time buyers were now better off buying than renting as in almost every part of the country monthly payments for mortgage-holders were now lower than for renters.

While MyMortgageDirect director Stuart

Inman agrees with the figures, he says there is still one large caveat to the Santander claims: a large deposit.

He said: "It is easy to say a mortgage is cheaper than renting, but obviously you've got a huge deposit which people need to find. "It is not quite as straightforward comparing the two when you take into account the other costs."

Mr Inman went on to say that those with less than 15 per cent of the purchase price for a deposit would see that mortgage rates are still not particularly attractive.

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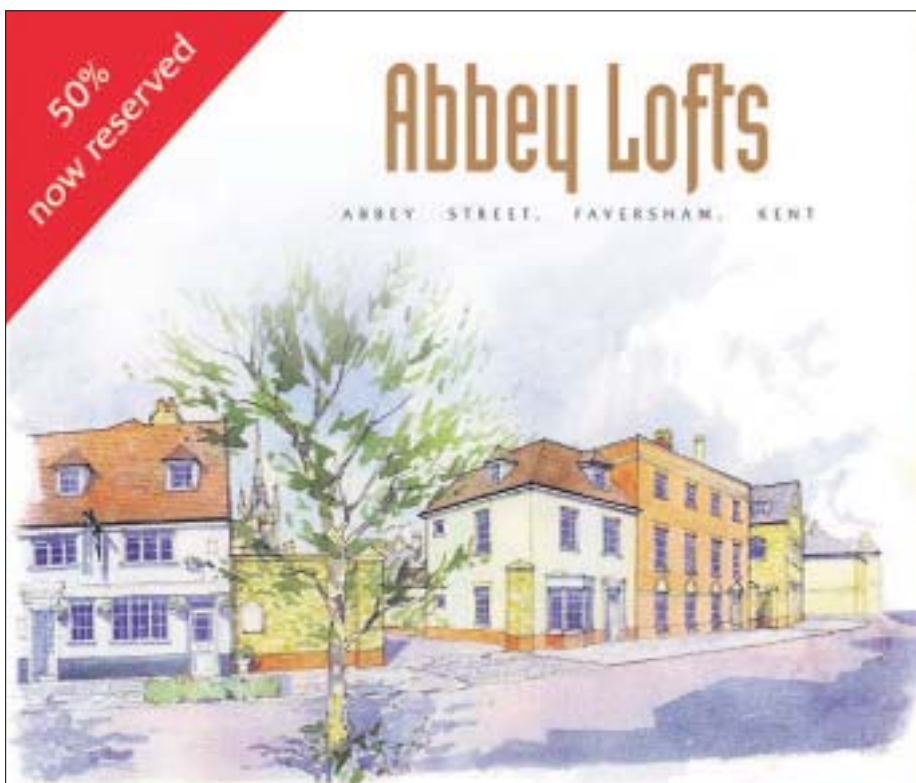
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Aylesham



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Aylesham



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Aylesham



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THE SPENCER WING

The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Healthcare Assistant

Full-time position

Qualifications: Evidence of healthcare experience
GCSE English / or equivalent

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Vicky Smith or Mary Guarnieri - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital
Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**

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Required to take over the running of an existing Quantity Surveying office.

All candidates must be educated to HND/HNC Building Studies or equivalent and come from an Engineering/Construction background with a proven track record in Quantity Surveying.

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The North Deal Community Partnership is looking for a Project Manager

to help them set up a new Community Centre in the North Deal neighbourhood. The post is fixed term and part time, at 0.5 week, working flexibly, by agreement.

Closing date is 30th July 2010.

For full details and application forms

tel 01304 381110

or visit www.northdealcommunity.co.uk





The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Senior Staff Nurse

Full-time position

Qualifications: Registered Nurse 1st Level
Minimum 2 years post registration/equivalent experience
Evidence of continual professional development
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Vicky Smith or Mary Guarnieri – 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd

The Spencer Wing, QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer

This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Community Fundraiser – East Kent

We require an enthusiastic individual with innovative ideas and excellent people skills to raise funds, enhance our profile and recruit and develop volunteers. Ideally you will live in and/or have sound knowledge of the Kent area.

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For an informal discussion please contact Natalie Tegg, Head of Corporate and Community Fundraising on 07717 731623. For an application pack please visit our website www.demelza.org.uk or call our recruitment line on 01795 845295. **Please quote reference KOS on all correspondence & applications.**

Closing Date: 14th July 2010

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We are looking for an assistant book-keeper based in our Canterbury head office. Applicants should have a minimum of AAT Intermediate level and experience of working with Sage 50 accounts software.

TRAINEE CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Burgess Hodgson is a leading firm of Chartered Accountants and business advisors in the South East. The practice has developed a strong reputation for training and developing individuals across a range of disciplines.

We are now recruiting for a number of trainee Chartered Accountants. Minimum requirements are a good degree, preferably in mathematics-based or business-related subjects, and/or three A Levels (grades A-B).

This is an excellent opportunity to develop your skills in a challenging, rewarding, and often inspiring environment.

Please apply in writing with CV to:

Barry Ryan, Burgess Hodgson, Camburgh House,
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email - ccraigie@martintolhurst.co.uk
Telephone - 01474 546018

Closing date 9 July 2010

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Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

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Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Occupational Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant OT qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 9th July 2010
Interviews will be held on 19th July 2010

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

To advertise in this section



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You must have prior experience in a residential care environment, be able to offer flexibility and would preferably be able to complete at least two shifts per week.

We work with a large number of nursing and residential providers throughout East Kent and so your own transport, or willingness to use public transport, is essential. Travelling expenses are paid for some assignments.

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For an informal discussion, please contact:

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01227 771122

whitstable@superior-care.co.uk

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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following areas:

Lecturer in Electrical Installation

Ref: P0357

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to deliver Electrical Installation to learners studying from level 1 to level 3. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of Electrical Installation programmes. The ideal candidate must have a current knowledge and practical experience of the Building Services Industry, have sufficient teaching experience and educated to Level 3 or the equivalent in the relevant field. The successful candidate must have; an Advanced Craft Certificate, including Inspection and testing of Installations and possess either a D32/34 or A & V Awards and hold a recognised teaching qualification or be willing to work towards one. Good IT skills and the ability to work within a team are essential.

Lecturer in Foundation Programmes

Ref: P0121

Salary: £24,096 - £28,963 pro rata (dependant on qualifications and experience) 30 hours per week Medway

The College is looking to recruit an outstanding individual to participate in the delivery of Foundation Programmes across the College. The role will involve working with Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities and ensuring that learners develop and achieve the skills they need to progress. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Additional Learning Support Tutor/Assessor Ref: P0378

Salary: £24,792 - £28,311 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience)

Hourly paid roles also available Maidstone/Medway

We are looking to recruit an exceptional candidate to assist with learning support for students with additional learning support needs. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate experience in and knowledge of tutoring, assessing and supporting learners with difficulties and disabilities. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised assessing certificate.

Personal Tutor

Ref: P0499

Salary: £20,674 - £23,212 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Maidstone

As a Personal Tutor you will plan and deliver a full range of group tutorials to learners with a wide range of abilities. You will also be responsible for a range of supportive activities including one-to-one tutorials. You will be able to work with minimum supervision and have experience of working in a coaching, mentoring or teaching capacity and be willing to undertake an appropriate teaching qualification.

Front Line Events Co-ordinator

Ref: M0450

Maternity Cover – fixed term contract Salary: £16,005 - £19,127 per annum Medway

The successful candidate will arrange, develop and deliver activities to facilitate student learning through training and experience at events. You will efficiently organise frontline events, including liaison with event organisers and Lecturers, supporting the College in the effective running of the frontline programme. Excellent communication skills and a recognised customer service qualification are essential as well as, experience of driving a minibus and holding a full, clean driving license with Class D entitlement or a current PCV license.

Technician in Hair and Beauty

Ref: P0277

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum Medway

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Information and Guidance Triage

Ref: P0131

Salary: £15,453 - £17,243 per annum Medway

We are looking to recruit a candidate to assist with the smooth running of the Information, Advice and Guidance department. The ideal candidate will have experience of working within a busy environment and will have excellent organisational skills. Duties will include providing a general enquiry service as part of the front of house team.

Hourly Paid Facilitators

Ref: SE560

Hourly Rate: £8.96 - £11.26 (dependent on qualifications and experience) Medway

We are looking to recruit sessional facilitators to join our successful CAST Team, working with students who have learning difficulties/disabilities. The ideal candidates will have experience of working with young people and are able to offer hours to suit the College timetables.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 16 July 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ
Tel: 0844 477 2525 Fax: 01474 335058

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Full job description and application form available on our website at www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk. Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at the school (tel: 0844 477 2525) or email: personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk.

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 12 July 2010

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For an informal discussion, please contact:

Mira
01303 221666
folkestone@superior-care.co.uk

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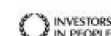
These may include concerns around mental health, safeguarding, homelessness, offending and chaotic substance misuse issues. We are looking for someone with good substance misuse knowledge, excellent communication and casework skills and proven experience of working with young people presenting with complex needs. Possession of, or working towards a relevant professional qualification is essential.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590795 selecting option three. Please quote reference number 679.

Closing date: 19 July 2010.
Interview date: 28 July 2010.

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
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CRICKET

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Kent League Division One

Canterbury 1st XI v Sandwich Town 1st XI

A HUGE third wicket partnership proved the difference as Canterbury were left with just a losing draw from their meeting with free-scoring Sandwich Town.

The home side's line-up were unable to repeat the feats of Sandwich's David Scoggins (102) and Vishaul Singh (141), who shared a stand of 197. Chasing 323 for victory, Canterbury never looked like getting close and dug in to at least deny Sandwich an outright victory.

Tim Wren won the toss and opted to bat. The skipper was on hand to dismiss Sandwich opener Lawrence Hills early on, holding a catch off Justin Macvicar's bowling. But the breakthrough proved a false dawn and the visitors went on to seize the initiative.

Scoggins put on 60 with Stuart Smith until Macvicar struck again to remove the latter. It brought Singh to the crease and along with Scoggins the pair made Canterbury's attack toil. Both men reached three figures and the only disappointment was Scoggins falling just short of the 200 partnership.

It set Sandwich up for an intimidating total of 322 for 5, piling the pressure on the hosts. Needing more than a run-a-ball it was a tall order and without anyone able to imitate Scoggins or Singh, the priority changed to survival.

Several batsmen made encouraging starts to their innings, but none could occupy the crease for long enough to make a telling contribution. Simon Smith top scored with 47.

Sandwich's attack could not take the ten wickets they needed to secure victory, but the result did see the visitors leapfrog Canterbury in the table.

This weekend Canterbury are at home to Folkestone.

Canterbury struggle to shift Sandwich pair



STRUGGLE: Canterbury's bowlers toiled against an in-form Sandwich Town batting line-up over the weekend

SCORE CARD

Sandwich Town 1st XI

	Runs
Lawrence Hills ct Wren b Macvicar	6
David Scoggins b Minter	102
Stuart Smith ct Cooper b Macvicar	26
Vishaul Singh ct Macvicar b Minter	141
Oliver Robinson lbw b Wren	7
Tom Chapman not out	2
Robert Goatham not out	4
Craig Spanton did not bat	
Gavin Lawrence did not bat	
Tom Dilnot-Smith did not bat	
Matthew van Poppel did not bat	
Extras (10b 14lb 10w)	34
Total (5 wickets, 50 overs)	322

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Ryan Minter	14	3	61	2
Justin Macvicar	12	1	53	2
Tim Wren	14	1	95	1
Stuart Drakeley	4	0	35	0
Ben Cooper	6	0	54	0

Canterbury 1st XI

	Runs
Neil Kimberley ct Hills b Spanton	21
Stuart Sinclair ct Robinson b Dilnot-Smith	6
Luke Samarasinghe ct Spanton b Goatham	10
Simon Smith ct Singh b Spanton	47
Stuart Drakeley ct Chapman b Robinson	26
Ryan Minter lbw b Chapman	12
Justin Macvicar not out	22
Mike Eeles not out	8
Josh Staunton did not bat	
Tim Wren did not bat	
Ben Cooper did not bat	
Extras (2b 11lb 10w)	23
Total (6 wickets, 50 overs)	175

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	15	3	52	2
Tom Dilnot-Smith	8	1	20	1
Matthew van Poppel	5	2	9	0
Robert Goatham	6	0	18	1
Oliver Robinson	7	1	20	1
Vishaul Singh	4	0	13	0
Tom Chapman	5	0	29	1

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE 2ND XI

St Lawrence & Highland Court 2nd XI v Beckenham 2nd XI

ALI Holmes guided St Lawrence & Highland Court 2nds to a comfortable six-wicket victory over struggling Beckenham 2nds on Saturday.

Percy Mellor took three quick wickets at the top of the visitors' batting order as St Lawrence took control early on. A lengthy stand between Matthew Bundy and Ross Piller helped redress the balance and Beckenham closed on 242 for 6.

Holmes led from the front in St Lawrence's reply, combining well with Tom Shaw (50). The only disappointment was victory was achieved before Holmes completed his century, finishing on 95 not out.

Beckenham 2nd XI

	Runs
Rodney Hilo	24
Charlie Le Bosquet	4
Simon Abrahams	0
Matthew Bundy	89
Ross Piller	54
David Baldwin	26
Mark Cashman	5
Terrence McDowell	7
Jeremy Pitblado	11
James Jones	14
Ben Cronin	33
Extras (20b 13lb)	33
Total	242

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Percy Mellor	15	1	69	4
Sam Ireland	15	3	65	1
Jack Baisdon	11	0	54	1
Jamie Vant-Harrison	4	0	7	0
Matthew Pickard	5	0	14	0

St Lawrence & Highland Court 2nd XI

	Runs
Paul Reynolds	11
Ali Holmes	95
Sam Ireland	24
Tom Shaw	50
James Fowle	14
Alex Cotter	10
Toby Green	10
Jack Baisdon	10
Percy Mellor	10
Jamie Vant-Harrison	10
Matthew Pickard	10
Extras (10b 8lb 22w)	40
Total	244

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Jeremy Pitblado	12	0	37	1
James Jones	4	0	22	0
Terrence McDowell	6	0	18	1
Matthew Bundy	8	0	60	1
Mark Cashman	9	0	50	0
Ben Cronin	4	0	22	0
Rodney Hilo	22	0	17	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Beckenham 1st XI v Whitstable 1st XI

AN EMBARRASSING display with the bat saw Whitstable slump to the heaviest of ten-wicket defeats at the hands of Beckenham.

The league leaders were immediately in trouble after opting to bat, slipping to 10 for 4. Their situation hardly improved as Pakistani spinner Raza Ali Dar tore through the middle order on his way to picking up 5 for 15 as Whitstable were bowled out for 57.

With just 58 set for victory Beckenham were in no mood to hang around. Their openers took just eight overs to rattle off the runs they needed to complete the thrashing.

Whitstable 1st XI

	Runs
Max Campbell	6
Tom Richardson	1
Sam Denly	0
David Draper	1
Seth Simmons	11
James Loader	5
Amadou Ainscough	6
Ben Trott	11
James Mills	0
Elliot Lewis	2
Duncan Hardy	0
Extras (8b 2lb 3w 1nb)	14
Total	57

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Ashley Forde	6	1	15	3
Raza Ali Dar	14	9	15	5
Johan Malcolm	8.3	3	17	2

Beckenham 1st XI

	Runs
Chris Isles	40
Jason Bilimoria	18
Raza Ali Dar	18
Johan Malcolm	18
James Evans	18
Simon Evans	18
Duncan Spencer	18
Ankit Patel	18
Clive Tyrrell	18
Ashley Forde	18
Mudit Dayal	18
Extras (1lb)	1
Total	59

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Ben Trott	4	0	21	0
Seth Simmons	2	0	24	0
Duncan Hardy	2	0	13	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Chestfield 1st XI v Linden Park 1st XI

CHESTFIELD slipped to the bottom of Division Three following a 103-run defeat to promotion-chasing Linden Park.

Stephen Cox won the toss and put the visitors in, with Steve Lewis taking two early wickets. But from then on Linden Park steadily gained control, with John Harvey (65) and Abhijit Kale (87) doing most of the damage as they closed on 247 for 6.

Michael Ralphs and Varun Thaker put on 84 for the third wicket in reply, but no other batsmen made double figures as Chestfield were all out for 144.

Linden Park 1st XI

	Runs
Paul Hammond	4
John Harvey	65
Alexander McDonald	9
William Thomas	27
Abhijit Kale	87
Stuart Clarke	43
Michael Brown	3
Dominic Lanaway	0
Ben Cobb	0
Oliver Morkel	0
James Saunders	0
Extras (5b 1lb 3w)	9
Total	247

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Steve Lewis	10	3	39	2
Varun Thaker	15	1	69	1
Simon Buckingham	11	0	59	2
Joshua Lock	10	1	46	1
Ben Croucher	4	0	28	0

Chestfield 1st XI

	Runs
Chris Watson	1
Joshua Lock	6
Michael Ralphs	43
Varun Thaker	42
Simon Buckingham	5
Paul Gibson	0
Steve Lewis	3
Shane Moody-Smith	3
Tom Winding	0
Stephen Cox	2
Ben Croucher	8
Extras (19b 5lb 7w)	31
Total	144

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Abhijit Kale	15	2	40	3
Ben Cobb	74	2	24	3
Dominic Lanaway	9	1	49	2
John Harvey	5	2	7	2

KENT REGIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER

Nonington 1st XI v Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI

NONINGTON stayed just on the fringes of the promotion hunt thanks to a 24-run victory against relegation-threatened Tunbridge Wells.

Matt Sadler departed for just a single, but Jamie and Kieron Burrett tucked in with substantial contributions. The runs continued after the duo's dismissal and Nonington reached 265 for 4 from their allocation.

James Madgwick starred in Wells' reply, hitting 121 not out from 92 balls. Despite the heroics it was not enough as they were restricted by some smart fielding which accounted for two run outs in quick succession.

Nonington 1st XI

	Runs
Matt Sadler	1
Jamie Burrett	91
Kieron Burrett	69
Daniel Pilbeam	40
Daniel Birch	33
James Sadler	18
Ross Griggs	18
Rob Paton	18
Josh Tutton	18
Stephen Coulson	18
Carl Knowles	18
Extras (2b 5lb 5w 1nb)	13
Total	265

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Dominic Trett	9	2	46	1
Liam Flint	9	2	48	1
Wesley Bryce-Borthwick	8	0	54	0
Mark Thompson	5	1	21	0
Stefan Grosvenor	6	0	39	0
Nigel Keess	9	0	50	2

Tunbridge Wells 3rd XI

	Runs
Greg Bronger	17
Tim Luckhurst	9
Jamie Baldwin	26
James Madgwick	121
Sam Watts	2
Nigel Keess	2
Stefan Grosvenor	11
Wesley Bryce-Borthwick	25
Liam Flint	11
Dominic Trett	11
Mark Thompson	11
Extras (5b 7lb 15w 1nb)	28
Total	241

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Rob Paton	8	1	35	1
Carl Knowles	8	1	46	0
Daniel Birch	10	0	59	1
Josh Tutton	12	3	33	2
Ross Griggs	5	0	31	0
Stephen Coulson	3	0	25	0

Coach calls on players to light up Oval 'home' game

CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

KENT'S bold initiative to stage a 'home' game at the Oval on Friday night will be backed by the players who have a responsibility to perform on the big stage, according to head coach Paul Farbrace.

The club decided at the end of last year to host this summer's Friends Provident t20 game against the Essex Eagles at the Oval in Kennington, Surrey, in a revenue spinner to help ease the county's financial concerns.

Friday's game will be the first time Kent have staged a game outside the county and while some have criticised the move, Farbrace said it's one his players are looking forward to, despite conceding qualification for this year's t20 is all but over.

He said: "If we go there and win we are very much back in the hunt, but I think the important thing is to put on a good show.

"It's a big game for the club from a financial point of view and we are there to get a good crowd in and get some money into the club, that's what we all want and we all need.

"We are 100 per cent behind this as players and coaches. At first I was adamant we shouldn't play at the Oval, but after thinking about it, I believe it's a really good initiative."



Picture ADV KERRY



RETURN: Darren Stevens (pictured playing for England Lions) is back for Kent's t20 match at the Brit Oval (above)

season and look at how Kent can improve.

"It's unrealistic for us to qualify," he said. "Mathematically it is not impossible and we will be trying to win every single game, but in some ways we will be saying 'let's forget about qualification and let's just focus on playing good, attacking, positive cricket rather than on the end result'.

"We haven't dominated games enough and put the opposition under pressure, we've sometimes played a bit safe and that's something we have got to be better at doing."

The Spitfires will have Darren Stevens back in their side after a successful spell with the England Lions, although James Tredwell will be unavailable as the off-spinner has been called up to the England squad for the One-Day International series with Bangladesh, which starts tomorrow.

• Friday's game against the Essex Eagles starts at 5.30pm. Tickets can be purchased at www.kent-ccc.co.uk or call 01227 456886.

HOCKEY



Picture ADV KERRY

TEST: Canterbury ladies star Natalie Seymour

Natalie ready for trophy challenge

AFTER months of training, a busy summer of hockey will finally begin for Natalie Seymour this weekend with the start of the Champions Trophy.

The Canterbury ladies defender has been part of the 28-strong British squad which has worked intensively since last autumn as part of a centralised training programme. The first real test for the English players comes at the Champions Trophy, held in Nottingham.

Seymour played in last year's event in Australia, where England finished bottom. The 23-year-old knows it will be extremely tough against the world's top sides, but is hopeful training at Bisham Abbey will begin to translate into results.

She said: "There's never an easy game in tournaments but the Champions Trophy is the biggest test. We are going in ranked seventh in the world and we're playing against the top four. It'll be a real test but we have put this hard work in training and hopefully it's where it will pay off. I'm really excited about getting into the tournament."

England begin against reigning champions Argentina on Saturday.



Picture NICK DUNGAN

RETURN?: Darren Marsden could line up for new side Welling United against Herne Bay on Saturday

Marsden to return with Wings

HERNE Bay's players will get a stern test just one week into pre-season training as they take on Blue Square Bet South side Welling United this weekend.

The game at Winch's Field is the toughest on Bay's schedule, but should give the squad a good challenge as they prepare for the new season.

The Wings could feature a familiar figure to the home fans, with midfielder Darren Marsden on trial with Jamie Day's squad. If he survives a midweek cull of trialists he is likely to be given a run-out against his former team-mates.

Danny Lawrence, who is also due to train with Welling this summer, will line up for the home side before linking up with the Park View Road outfit next week.

Bay boss Simon Halsey admitted the run-out comes sooner than he would have liked,

FOOTBALL

but is keen to see how his players get on against superior opposition.

He said: "It might be a little bit early in pre-season, but it's about getting the lads through 45, 60 or 90 minutes. They will certainly have to work hard on Saturday but it will be very beneficial."

The game should mark the return of Rhys Lawson for his second spell with the club. After two seasons in the Ryman South with Ramsgate, the midfielder has re-signed as Halsey prepares for the possible loss of Lawrence.

The Bay manager is also searching for a new assistant manager after Martin Collins was forced to step down due to work commitments.

KENT SCHOOL GAMES



RUNNERS-UP: Simon Langton boys in the badminton

Youngsters shine in county games finals

YOUNG people from across the Canterbury area excelled in the finals days at the second Kent School Games, which ended on Sunday.

The city's sporting venues played host to many of the final events for the games, which involved 550 schools across Kent. The scheme, which involved 30,000 schoolchildren in total, is believed to be the biggest of its kind in Europe.

Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys took two titles, winning the under-13 basketball and under-15 beach volleyball. They also came runners-up in badminton at under-14 and under-16 level, plus the table tennis under-15s.

Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School won the under-16s badminton, while they also came second in the under-14s at the same event and the under-15s basketball.

Swalecliffe's year 5/6 girls won their football tournament, while the trampolining was dominated by Herne Bay High, who took both the under-13s titles and the girls' under-15s. The town also had success in the younger age groups, with Herne Bay Infant School taking silver in the multi-skills decathlon and the juniors finishing second at tri-golf.

Canterbury High won the under-15 boys' basketball crown and their boys' under-13s table tennis team claimed second place.

There was also considerable success in the disability events. The Orchard School took the cycling, while the Archbishop's School won the football, swimming and sitting volleyball events, the latter just finishing ahead of St Nicholas.

Chris Hespe, head of the Kent County Council sport, leisure and Olympics team, hailed the Games as a huge success.

He said: "It's been an enormous exercise. We've had 64 finals, with 6,000 young people involved in 38 different sports across 13 different venues.

"The games is now in the psyche of schools and it's an exciting opportunity for these youngsters to learn the values of co-operation, competition, team work and fair play."

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Footage from the finals at last weekend's Kent School Games



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